

Overview and Scrutiny



Task and Finish Group Proforma

This proforma has been designed to capture the information that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will need in order to decide which task and finish groups to establish.

This proforma can be completed by individual councillors on their own or by colleagues working together and support is available. If you would like support in completing this proforma, you can approach the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, one of the Select Committee Chairs or any member of the Scrutiny team.

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| <p>Proposed title <i>This should be written as a question. What is the main question that you are looking to answer? Ideally use "how" i.e. "How can we improve.....XXX?"</i></p> | <p>How can we join up youth provision across the borough to ensure an accessible offer for all and how can we prepare young people for opportunities in the future?</p> |
| <p>Overview <i>Provide 2-3 sentences explaining the proposed investigation in more detail including the key areas that you are proposing to look at.</i></p> | <p>This TFG will seek to address these challenges by investigating:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the current landscape of youth provision (up to age 25) across the borough and where are the gaps (looking at universal, targeted, and specialist provision)? 2. How can we join up the Lewisham youth provision 'offer' more comprehensively, develop partnership opportunities, and make it more accessible? 3. How can we provide young people opportunities to be exposed to the jobs of the future e.g. in AI, analytics, coding etc? |
| <p>Reason for proposal <i>Why do you think that a task and finish group is the most appropriate way to address this issue / answer this question? Where has the suggestion come from? (i.e. through resident engagement, casework, external inspection, performance information.)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth provision is not a statutory service so it is often overlooked and, in many boroughs, cut all together. This is a shame as it is a key part in reducing the number of NEETS and lack of a youth service means young people are instead exposed to negative influences after school hours and during the school holidays. • Lewisham admirable has kept it's youth service but it is currently fragmented between Youth First and many other providers. There currently is no accessible overview of all the different providers, what they provide and when. • This makes it difficult for young people to access but it is also difficult for the council to spot gaps in the provision and also opportunities for shared services and joint funding proposals. • It is also the case that there are missed opportunities for collaboration and shared best practice across the youth sector in Lewisham – especially when it comes to looking to the future of youth service and how it can help provide exposure to opportunities and the jobs of the future. • This rationale has been borne out by previous experience as a teacher, being a school governor, and working with young people through my roles in Youth First and being on the board of the Lewisham Youth Theatre as well as |

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| | <p>speaking to young people at the Bank of Things, Circle Collective, and through the mayor advisors.</p> |
| <p>Policy Context <i>How does the proposal support delivery of the Lewisham Corporate Strategy; national/regional policies, initiatives; legislation etc.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have reached out to Chris Barnham and Luke Sorba – have been encouraged to go forward as it will be both timely and useful in feeding into the Youth Strategy for the council. • Committed to involving young people in this process and will involve the Young Mayor team and advisors. • We need to continue to reflect on how we can better deal on our manifesto commitments to improve early support to enable all children to thrive, and protect young people with a public health approach to tackling exploitation or violence. • Links to reducing the number of NEETs (not in education, employment, or training) is a priority and so will have already reached out to the Lewisham Works team. • In terms of future opportunities (the 3rd research question), there are links with Goldsmiths which last year one of the first winners of the The Alan Turing Institute’s Network Development Awards. As part of that award, they will work to establish/grow an engaged and diverse community working (at all career stages) in data science and AI research – a chance for our borough to help provide that diverse STEM pipeline that organisations are looking for. • Connect with the Young Leaders Academy to see what best practice we can learn from them in terms of supporting young black people and to explore the collaborations (between different youth providers) that would enhance that support. • If this TFG is selected, will be asking the scrutiny manager to do a landscape analysis of other policy connections/overlaps (e.g. exploring connections with the cultural strategy, community centres/asset management to see if there are other resources we can unlock for young people). |
| <p>Criteria for the investigation <i>(Essential)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is the proposed investigation timely? Why?</i> • <i>Is it a strategic and significant issue? How?</i> • <i>Is it of concern to one or more sections of the population? Who?</i> <p><i>(Desirable)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is the issue of concern to partners or stakeholders? How?</i> • <i>Will the investigation add value in terms of improving the council’s or partner’s performance or service delivery? How?</i> • <i>Will the investigation be duplicating any other work? What?</i> • <i>What control or influence does the Council have in this area?</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed investigation is timely as we have contacts up for re-tending (e.g. Youth First and with Adventure Playgrounds) and also new sites for young people opening up soon (e.g. Riverside) so having a TFG happen beforehand would provide useful research into how we can provide a more comprehensive and joined up offer for young people in our borough. • It is strategic and significant as Youth Service is currently a fragmented mix of legacy and new providers. Without a look at the whole borough provision, we are missing opportunities for joined-up work and simply accepting managed decline. • This work is of course of primary concern to the young people of our borough – especially those who are most vulnerable. As part of this TFG, we will be looking at what our universal offer is (e.g. available/open to all), what are targeted offer is (e.g. to young people at risk of exclusion, to young carers etc), and what are specialist offer is (e.g. in specialist areas such as mental health)– this will help us better understand what is actually being offered to the most vulnerable young people in our borough. We have a real opportunity for innovative partnership work and improvement of partner’s performance. • This is also a concern of the youth providers across the borough who have questions about resourcing and how that is shared across our whole borough to ensure that there is youth provision accessible in all wards. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This investigation will add value in terms of identifying the gaps and also the collaboration opportunities (e.g. shared service provision, joint funding opportunities, coordinated scheduling across youth service providers) – which will improve the service delivery across our borough and make it a more comprehensive and joined up offer for our young people. • This investigation does not duplicate other work and in fact, the CYP chair has said that he has been pushing for this for a long time. • The council has contact/influence through tendering contracts but also through asset management (utilising our assets to provide spaces for young people). |
| <p>Sources of evidence <i>Do you have any thoughts/ideas on where you might gather evidence from? e.g. research or site visits. (Officers will be able to recommend suggestions and help with this.)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits at the places where youth provision is carried out across our borough. • Surveys with young people/work with Young Mayor etc. • Visit to a coding camp, summer computer science courses for students across the summer holidays. • Experts in youth provision (organisations, big tech companies, how Lewisham can attract investments). • Schools visits/speaking to young people |
| <p>Co-optees / Technical advisors? <i>Would the task and finish group benefit from having expert input such as an academic or local expert?</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camilla – Youth Worker at XLP (urban youth charity working in our borough) to be a co-optee. • Edison has identified contacts who are involved in tech to advise how young people could be exposed to opportunities of the future and act as technical advisors (esp for 3rd research question). • Representatives from tech/philanthropic arms to act as technical advisors and who could review the final report. |
| <p>Suggested timeframe <i>Do you estimate / suggest that the investigation take 3, 6, 9 or 12 months? Outline your suggested timetable for evidence gathering.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 months. • July: kick off public meeting – scope out work (invite young mayor and advisors too). Attend the Lewisham Youth Summit already planned where all the youth providers across the borough will be present. Make connections and introduce the idea. • Over summer holidays: Lewisham site visits across borough. • September: private meeting to discuss findings. (ask scrutiny managers to invite certain organisations). • October: more site visits over half term (in other London boroughs) • November-December: interviews with youth providers outside of the borough and with providers who focus on reducing NEETs • January: (mid-public meeting) discuss findings. Have an expert speaker involved to speak about future tech trends and how to prepare young people for them. • February-March: private meetings/write up of findings and recommendations • April: public meeting to share findings and recommendations |
| <p>Equalities Impact <i>Identify any equalities issues that might be applicable.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want to make sure the youth provision in the borough remains accessible to all so any recommendations would include a EDI assessment. The report will also align and be compliant with broader Lewisham duties regarding EDI ('A Fairer Lewisham Duty') |
| <p>Councillor(s) submitting the proposal <i>Please list the names of the submitting councillor(s)</i></p> | <p>Edison Huynh has submitted. Those who have agreed to be on board so far: Yemisi, Rudi, Aisha.</p> |

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